

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A die cushion,~~die cushion comprising a plurality of the die cushion pins as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~which equalizes axially transmitted pressures of the individual cushion pins,~~pins are equalized with the use of the plurality of cushion pins according to Claim 1.

3.(Original) A press machine, which is provided with the die cushion according to Claim 2.

4.(Currently Amended) A pressing ~~method,~~method comprising performing press work by equalizing axially transmitted pressures of plural cushion pins disposed on a die cushion through a die cushion pad by smoothing variations in positions of the ends of the cushion pins by contraction of an elastic member provided for each of the cushion pins.

5-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A cushion pin for a die cushion, the cushion pin comprising:
a pillar member; and
an elastic member that is arranged coaxially with respect to the pillar member and produces a pushing force in an axial direction of the pillar member.

10. (New) The cushion pin as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pillar member comprises:
a bolt member attached to a first member; a sliding member disposed between a head of
the bolt member and an end face of the first member; and a second member attached to
an opposite end of the sliding member relative to the first member,

wherein the first member, the bolt member, the sliding member and the second
member are coaxially aligned, and

wherein the elastic member is disposed around said bolt member and in said sliding
member.

11. (New) The cushion pin as claimed in claim 10, wherein the sliding member is
slidable relative to the bolt member and the first member.

12. (New) The cushion pin as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a spacer disposed
between the elastic member and the end face of the first member.

13. (New) A load supporting device, which is interposed between a cushion pin and a
die cushion pad, comprising:

an elastic member that is provided coaxially with respect to the cushion pin and
produces a pushing force in an axial direction of the cushion pin,

wherein a load applied to the cushion pin is supported through the elastic member.

14. (New) A die cushion, which receives a load supplied through a plurality of cushion

pins by a die cushion pad, comprising:

a plurality of load supporting devices disposed on the die cushion pad, each of the load supporting devices having an elastic member that is provided coaxially with respect an associated cushion pin, the elastic device of each of the load supporting devices produces a pushing force in an axial direction of the associated cushion pin,

wherein the load supporting devices are disposed on one surface of the die cushion pad in abutment with the cushion pins, respectively.

15. (New) A press machine comprising the die cushion according to claim 14.